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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Shoulder Boards and Insignia of the
4th Guards Mechanized Army

DATE DISTR.

18 August 1953

NO. OF PAGES

1

50X1-HUM

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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1. EM of the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army wore black shoulder boards with red piping. Their branch of service was indicated by the following insignia:
 - a. Quartermaster: hammer, sickle and a red star,
 - b. Transportation: wheel and wing
 - c. Artillery: crossed guns.
2. Officers of combat arms wore gold shoulder boards with silver stars, plus the insignia of their branch; officers of quartermaster units wore silver shoulder boards with gold stars and the quartermaster insignia, i.e., a hammer, sickle and red star.
3. [redacted] regulations governing the shoulder boards of artillery troops assigned to a rifle regiment [redacted] they would wear either the artillery shoulder boards (black with red piping) or those of the infantry (red shoulder boards with black piping). The deciding factor [redacted] was whether the army they were in was classified as mechanized or rifle. In the 4th Gds. Mecz. Army, [redacted] officers had gold shoulder boards with silver stars, silver crossed guns, red piping, and red rank stripes (one for company officers and two for field grade officers).

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